GREAT JOURNS

Journal of Entrepreneurship

Vol.1 No.2, October 2024

The Effect of Provision of Credit Facilities on Performance of Women Enterprises in Moiben Sub-County.

[1]Doreen Kawiria Mutiania
Master of Business Administration (Entrepreneurship),
Kisii University

[2]Dr. Yobes nyaboga, PhD
Senior Lecturer
School of Business and Economics
Department of Business Administration
Kisii University

[3]Dr. James Maengwe, PhD
Lecturer, School of Business and Economics
Department of Business Administration
Kisii University

Great Journs
ISSN: 2328-4870
Vol.1 No.2, October 2024

Journal homepage: www.greatjourns.com

ABSTRACT

Global statistics indicate that women are involved in various entrepreneurial activities. However, few of them have thrived. This is because many women lack access to the required initial capital to establish and /or expand the enterprises. Research has established the impact of Economic empowerment on a woman's self-esteem, respect as well as other forms of empowerment. It enhances poverty reduction, according the women beneficiaries the opportunity to earn an independent income, and create employment. The goal of the study was to look the Effect of Provision of Credit Facilities on Performance of Women Enterprises in Moiben Sub-County.The research made use of descriptive research design. This study targeted 472 funded women groups in Moiben Sub-County, with a population of 5,223 group members. The sample size was 371 using (Yamane (1967) formula, Simple random sampling was used; data collection was by use of structured questionnaire. Data collected was quantitative in nature and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, and inferential statistics. From the findings of this study, examined the effect of Women Enterprise Fund programs as credit facilities, capacity building and market linkages on performance of women enterprises in Moiben, Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya; the study concludes that Women Enterprise Fund programs are key in promoting performance of women enterprises in Moiben, Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya. This is evidenced by the fact that these variables jointly and independently affect performance of women enterprises as per the study findings. This implies that women enterprise fund should strengthen provision of credit facilities, capacity development and market linkages to potentiate their outcome in terms of performance of women enterprises. The researcher recommended that the Women Enterprise Fund can enhance its support for women-owned enterprises, empower women entrepreneurs, and contribute to their improved performance by implementing these recommendations: The women enterprise fund should simplify the application process for accessing credit facilities. The women enterprise fund should keep administration fees reasonable and affordable for women entrepreneurs, especially for those running small or micro-enterprises. Consider waiving or reducing fees for certain categories of borrowers, such as first-time borrowers or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Develop customized credit products tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of women-owned enterprises.

Key words: ***Credit Facilities, Women Enterprises***

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Global dialogue and statistics provide clear evidence to demonstrate that improving women's financial capabilities and economic opportunities in turn improves their ability to contribute to the community and national development is a significant difficulty, particularly for developing, disadvantaged and underdeveloped nations. According to a recent World Bank report (2019), one in every four Bangladeshis is poor. This demonstrates that poverty remains a pressing concern for Bangladeshi officials. A civilization cannot progress unless it includes a significant number of destitute people. Involving disadvantaged people in the revenue creation process may eventually lead to empowerment. Women's empowerment is crucial to guaranteeing home welfare given the family structure and unequal allocation of intra-household resources. Women's empowerment not only boosts the financial capabilities of the poor, but it also alters the power

dynamics that have kept them excluded and subservient. Okolo-Obasi and Uduji, (2024) notes that government enterprise and empowerment program intervention has significant impacts on enterprise turnover, reduction in per unit cost of production, and increase in profitability and return on investment (ROI) amongst women enterprises. Amos and Lutego (2022) identified success in WDF reported to be business expansion, growth and acquired ability to source abroad markets of their businesses, job creation, improved the individual life standards,increased their ability to pay for family necessities and construct their home. Opil, (2019) also notes that the funds received from WEF were utilized in various business enterprises and projects ranging from livestock rearing, poultry farming, construction of rental houses and starting up business enterprises. The study also established that the women were empowered both socially and economically in that they acquired trainings which accorded them opportunities to share information with others in addition to increased income from income generating activities which supplemented their other sources of income.

The goal of Waithaka, Wegulo, and Mokua (2016) conducted this investigation to examine how microfinance affects women's economic empowerment. In order to collect primary data an ex-post-facto survey design was used for the investigation. with questionnaires was used. The population of 2750 was chosen. The sample size was 338 participants. The computation of descriptive statistics and data displayed in tables. The qualitative analysis and presentation of study results quantitatively. The research revealed that woman's financial literacy and education aid in assessing commercial company and managerial success, while increasing women's confidence and bargaining strength. The previous study was conducted in Nakuru County; however, this study was carried out in Moiben Sub in Uasin Gishu.

Al-Shami et al. (2018) used a cross-sectional survey of 474 old and new clients in Malaysia to investigate the effects of microcredit on women empowerment. They contended that microcredit only empowers women who live in male-dominated households. It is because of the rules that man is empowered and given responsibility to make family decisions. Microcredit empowers some people and has the ability to promote gender equality. Participation in microcredit programs boosts women's income, movement outside the home, health-care decision-making, daily household expenditure, and loan order. Microcredit is an essential economic resource that gives women negotiating power, allowing them to improve their decisions and positions in the household and acquire control over their life.

Although there are different models of lending among Microfinance institutions, the two common ones include group lending and individual lending model. In-group lending, a specific number of individuals unite and come together to secure credit facility from a microfinance institution. Loan facilities are not issued to individuals but rather among people working in groups. The members are liable to repayment in case any member fails to repay the loan. Although the interest charged may be like that of commercial banks, it is relatively lower than individual lending. The repayment rate is higher as each member is held liable for the debts of every member of the group. The social ties and values held together inform the formation of such groups.

Collaterals are not required in group lending. Although group financing is favorable, some members may default, placing the remaining members of the group under pressure to repay the delinquent amount (Nxumalo and Kaseeram, 2017). Individual lending models allow the institution to give loans to borrowers on an individual basis. Before the lending facility is approved, the applicant must provide a guarantee. This is the most successful lending strategy for credit recovery since the guarantor can put pressure on the customer to repay the institution's loan. This financing methodology shortens the time it takes to hold group meetings before advancing funds. However, the guarantee mechanism is only effective if the borrower has enough assets to pledge as collateral. if the pledged asset is easily transferable and the pledged asset is not highly liquid (Naidu& Chand, 2017).

Semegn and Bishnoi (2021) examined the effect of microcredit on the performance of the micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in Amhara National Regional State, Ethiopia. A total of 340 MSEs were randomly selected, and a survey method was used. Average Sales volume was used to measure performances of MSEs. The study concluded that loan size, savings and entrepreneurship training had a significant positive effect on the performance of MSEs. It is suggested that microfinance institutions should strengthen their existing policies and strategies to increase credit to MSEs, enhancing the modalities of entrepreneurship training and mobilizing savings to achieve the envisioned targets of reducing unemployment and promoting the growth of MSEs in Ethiopia.

Abebe and Kegne (2023) investigated the role of microfinance services on women's entrepreneurship development in Assosa town. The study employed both descriptive and explanatory designs and a quantitative research approach. The study targeted 352 women clients of Assosa Woreda Microfinance Institution, and 165 samples were selected using a simple random sampling technique. The correlation result also indicated a positive and significant association between saving practice, access to credit, skill development training, and the development of women entrepreneurs. Finally, the regression result saving and the credit or loan services of the microfinance institution service have the most decisive influence on women's entrepreneurship development.

Alene (2020) explored the determinants that influence women entrepreneurs' performance in micro and small enterprises in Gondar city, Northwest Ethiopia. The study employed an explanatory research design with agreement of primary data collection via a cross-sectional survey questionnaire followed by quantitative research approach. The sample of this study was 180 women entrepreneurs and selected using random sampling technique. revealed that educational level, previous entrepreneurial experience, access to business training, access to finance, access to business information, government support, land ownership, and tax are significant in explaining women entrepreneurs' performance in one hand. Berger (2021) evaluated the impact credit has for women micro entrepreneurs in India. A key factor in determining women's demand for credit for commercial use is their ownership and operation of enterprises. Besides the high transaction costs, other factors limit women's access to credit from formal lenders, collateral requirements being one of the most obvious one. Education is another

factor limiting women's access to credit from formal institutions. Social and cultural factors also influence women's demand for credit.

Women constitute 50.5% of Kenya's population and this suggests the importance to harness their full potential to contribute to the Country GDP. The Government's socio-economic agenda places great emphasis on affirmative actions, as catalytic action towards the empowerment of women and other special interest groups. The Women Enterprise Fund was established under Legal Notice No. 147.is one of the Affirmative Funds and a champion for Gender Equity and Women empowerment agenda. (Kenya's vision 2030)

II: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

Research design refers to the overall strategy or blueprint that guides a researcher in planning, conducting, and analyzing a study (Moss, 2014). It outlines how the research will be carried out to ensure that the data collected effectively addresses the research questions or hypotheses. The study adopted a descriptive research design which is a type of research that focuses on providing an accurate portrayal or account of the characteristics, behaviors, or situations of a specific population, group, or phenomenon. Descriptive research was well-suited for gaining a clear understanding of the current state of women enterprises and the impact of the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) programs. This design helps in exploring the relationship between WEF (independent variable) and the performance of women enterprises (dependent variable). It provides insights into whether there is a noticeable improvement in performance metrics like revenue, growth, or employment levels due to the fund. Descriptive research design aims to provide an accurate portrayal of the subject under study (Creswell, 2013).

2.2 Study area

Moiben Sub-County is located within Uasin Gishu County. Geographically, it lies within former Rift Valley Province in Kenya. The coordinates for Moiben are approximately 0.773° N latitude and 35.655° E longitude. It is situated at an elevation of around 2,100 meters (6,900 feet) above sea level, contributing to its favorable climate for agricultural activities. The Sub -county is crossed by several rivers and streams, including the Sosiani River and the Moiben River, which provide water for irrigation and other purposes, refer to Appendix 111 (Records of Moiben Sub County, May 2023).

Moiben Sub-County is primarily known for its agricultural activities, particularly in the production of maize (corn), wheat farming, dairy farming, poultry rearing, avocado farming, horticulture farming like growth of flowers and vegetables among many others it has fertile soil and favorable climate conditions for agriculture, making it an important agricultural hub in Uasin Gishu County. Additionally, Moiben is home to various social and economic facilities such as healthcare centres, markets, and trading centres that serve both the residents and non-residents (Records of Moiben Sub County, 2023).

2.3 Target Population

This study targeted a population of 5,223 from 472 funded women groups in Moiben sub -county as displayed in Table 3.1.

Table 2.1: Target Population

Moiben Wards in Moiben Sub-county	Registered Groups	Population
Karona Meibeki	150	1588
Moiben	80	840
Kimumu	70	735
Tembelio	100	1300
Sergoit	72	760
Total	**472**	**5223**

Source: (WEF, 2024)

2.4 Sample and Sampling Design

Sample identified "as a subgroup carefully selected to represent the whole population with relevant characteristics" Burger, 2006. The target population is 5223 members of the funded groups in Moiben Sub- County of Uasin Gishu County, as per Women Enterprise fund, data generated (May 2023). The sampling technique to be applied is simple random sampling.

2.4.1 Sample size

A sample as an informative part of a statistical population, which is studied to gain information about the whole (Lohr, 2021). Using Yamane (1967) formula, the sample size was 371 as shown in table 3.2.

n=N/(1+N(e)2
where;
n= sample size
N= population of the study
e =margin error in the calculation
Allowing a+/- 5% margin or error.
n=5223/ (1+5223(e)2
n=5223/ (1+5223*0.05*0.05)
n=5223/14.06
n=371

The study adjusted the effective sample size to account for anticipated non-response. The following formular will compensate for the anticipated non-response rate by increasing the initial sample size.

Great Journs
ISSN: 2328-4870
Vol.1 No.2, October 2024

$$\text{Final sample size} = \frac{\text{Effective sample size}}{1-\text{anticipated non-response rate}}$$

The study anticipated a non response rate of 10% , Including a 10% non-response rate in the sample size calculation allows researchers to account for potential losses in participants, ensuring the final sample size is adequate for reliable and valid results. According to Dillman, Smyth, and Christian, (2014), controlling for non-response bias by anticipating a non-response rate of around 10% helps maintain the generalizability of findings, as the researcher can collect responses that accurately represent the population despite a portion of non-responders. Therefore the final sample size will be:

Final sample size= $\frac{371}{(1-0.1)}$

$=412$

The final sample size was therefore 412 respondents who provided quantitative data. After proportion allocation formular was used to distribute the sample size in each stratum. Proportional allocation sets the sample size in each stratum equal to be proportional to the number of sampling units in that stratum (Oribhabor & Anyanwu, 2019).

That is.

$n\text{h} = (N\text{h} / N) * n.$

where nh = sample size for stratum h,
Nh = population size for stratum h,
N = total population size,
n = total sample size

Table 2.2: Sample size apportionment and Non-response apportionment

Moiben Sub-County Wards	Membership Population	Sample size
Karona Meibeki	1588	125
Moiben	840	66
Kimumu	735	58
Tembelio	1300	103
Sergoit	760	60
Total	**5223**	412

Source: (Researcher, 2024)

Jones (1996) recommends oversampling by 10% in order to reduce non-response bias. This study applied 10% of the sample size increasing the size to 412.

2.4.2 Sampling frame

The sample size was 412 women owning enterprises who were respondents in Moiben Sub-County of Uasin Gishu County

2.4.3 Sampling Design

The study used multistage sampling to simplify data collection because of the large and geographically spread samples. The technique was chosen to provide each ward and women owned enterprise an equal chance of being selected. Within the clusters simple random sampling was used to sample the number of respondents to participate in the study from each and every stratum. Simple random sampling is a type of probability sampling in which the researcher randomly selects a subset of participants from a population (Mweshi & Sakyi, 2020). Each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. Purposive sampling was also to women owned enterprises from the business owners.

2.5 Data collection

The researcher sought for permission from Kisii University and NACOSTI to carry out the study. This enabled field data collecting and fulfilled the course requirement.

2.5.1 Instrumentation

The study used a questionnaire in data collection. Questionnaires are widely used in surveys due to their efficiency, standardization, and ability to gather large amounts of data (Bryman, 2016). Additionally Creswell, (2014) notes that Questionnaires provide flexibility for participants, allowing them to complete the survey at their convenience and pace, which can lead to higher response rates compared to time-sensitive interviews or focus groups. A well-designed questionnaire was used to gather data. The survey was made up of closed-ended questions and dispersed according to strata. With the aid of a research assistant, the questionnaire was distributed, and responders completed it. The research tool was divided into three sections: an introduction section, a general information section, and a section with questions organized into groups of different study factors, including the effect of the Women Enterprise Fund's provision of loan facilities. Women Enterprise Fund offers training possibilities, and Women Enterprise Fund offers market connections. This guaranteed that all the necessary data is collected to respond to the research inquiries. Closed- ended questions in the questionnaire made it easier to not only administer and evaluate but helped verify information from the chosen beneficiaries.

2.5.1.1 Validity

If a test achieves its intended goals, it is said to be valid (Moss, 2014). In this case, to ascertain the construct validity of the instrument, the researcher first gave operational definition of terms used in the study and both the independent and dependent variables were given meaning for purpose of this study. To achieve construct validity, the study had to ensure that the indicators and measurements of the variables are carefully developed based on relevant existing knowledge. The questionnaire included only relevant questions that measure the indicators of the variables. Construct validity is the degree to which inferences can be made from operationalizations (connecting concepts to observations) in your study to the constructs on which those operationalizations are based (Brendan, 2021). Face validity was tested by

developing a dichotomous scale in the questionnaire with categorized options for the respondents and through peer reviews while content validity was ensured by using the expert opinion of the University Supervisors.

2.5.1.2 Reliability

According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2008), the degree of reliability is determined by what means reliably the study tool yields outcomes or data after several tests because of this, a questionnaire was used to collect data and validate all the information obtained. Prior to the actual procedure of testing the instrument, a pilot study was conducted. Before conducting the real research, preliminary research on data collecting instrument was conducted with 42 respondents in the adjoining sub-county of Ainabkoi in Uasin Gishu County to determine their viability. The researcher was able to determine the consistency and precision of the tools being utilized as a result.

The dependability of the metrics contained in the questionnaire was examined to determine internal consistency. It was done by computing Cronbach's alpha, which has a value coefficient of 0.7, using the information that was gathered from the financed members of the groups using the designed questionnaire. The following threshold from Kinoti (2013) was used to interpret the coefficients. Excellent (High-Stakes Testing), Good (Low-Stakes Testing), Acceptable (0.6), Poor (0.5), and Inacceptable (0.5) are the results. Findings were as presented in table 3.3.

Table 2.3 Reliability of the instrument

Construct	No of items	Cronbach alpha coefficient
Credit facilities	5	0.771
Capacity building	5	0.796
Market linkages	5	0.837
Performance of women owned enterprises	5	0.828

Source: (Researcher, 2024)

A commonly accepted guideline is that a value of 0.70 or higher suggests satisfactory reliability (Taber, 2018). The credit facilities statements had a Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.771 which is an acceptable internal consistency. Capacity building statements had a Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.796 which is an acceptable internal consistency. The market linkages statements had a Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.837 which is an acceptable internal consistency. The performance of women establishments statements had a Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.828 which is an acceptable internal consistency. All the items were retained because they met the threshold of above 0.7.

2.5.2 Data collection procedures

Kisii University granted authorization to the researcher. After that, the researcher submitted an application for authorization to NACOSTI. Women Enterprises in Kenya's Moiben Sub-County

of Uasin Gishu County received the permit. Questionnaire was distributed using Silima's (2016) drop-and-pick technique. The respondents had four weeks to complete the questionnaires with enough of time to read, comprehend, and complete them in a way that gave the researcher the important data needed for the study. The respondents were given the assurance that the information they provide on the questionnaire is confidential.

2.6 Data analysis

Since the data was in numerical numbers, it was quantitative in character. Descriptive statistics like mean and standard deviation as well as inferential statistics from regression analysis was used to analyze the data. (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2013. A descriptive research design was employed to analyze findings. SPSS version 25 was utilized to create the findings of the regression model as the statistical instrument for the analysis. Here is the regression model:

Where:

Where: Y = Performance of Women Enterprises (Dependent Variable)

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon$

β_0= Constant which is the value of dependent variable when all the independent variables are zero.

β_1= coefficient for Xi (i=1, 2, 3)

X_1= Credit Facilities

X_2= Capacity Building

X_3 = Market Linkages

ε = error term

2.7 Assumptions of Multiple Regression

Multiple regression is a statistical technique used to analyze the relationship between a single dependent variable and multiple independent variables. Multiple linear regression analysis is predicated on several fundamental assumptions that *ensure the validity and reliability of its results* (Papadas, Avlonitis, Carrigan, & Piha, 2019). Ensuring that these assumptions hold is crucial for the validity and reliability of the regression analysis. Violations of these assumptions can lead to biased estimates, incorrect inferences, and flawed predictions. Therefore, it's essential to assess these assumptions during model evaluation and take appropriate steps to address any violations encountered. Assumptions of Linear Relationship, normality, homoscedasticity and Multicollinearity were tested as explained below.

Assumption of Normality: The analysis assumes that the residuals (the differences between observed and predicted values) are normally distributed (Osborne & Waters, 2019).The assumption of normality was tested using Skewness and Kurtosis. According to Celikoglu and

Tirnakli, (2018) data skewness values must fall within +1 and -1 and kurtosis values must be in the range of +3 and -3, if P-values are <0.05 for normally distributed data.

Assumption of Linearity: The assumption states that there is a linear relationship between the independent variables (predictors) and the dependent variable (outcome). This means that the effect of a one-unit change in an independent variable on the dependent variable is constant, regardless of the values of the other independent variables (Osborne & Waters, 2019). The core premise of multiple linear regression is the existence of a linear relationship between the dependent (outcome) variable and the independent variables (Williams, Grajales, & Kurkiewicz, 2019). Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to test for linearity assumption. When the correlation values are not close to 1 or -1 is an indication that the factors are sufficiently different measures of separate variables (Busemeyer & Lober, 2020). The closer the outcome value is to 1 means a strong correlation.

Assumption of homoscedasticity: means that the variance of the errors (the differences between the observed and predicted values) is constant across all levels of the independent variables (Pekár & Brabec, 2018). Homoscedasticity was tested by visually inspecting scatter plots. A scatterplot of residuals versus predicted values should not display any discernible pattern, such as a cone-shaped distribution, which would indicate heteroscedasticity.

Assumption of Multicollinearity: It is essential that the independent variables are not too highly correlated with each other, a condition known as multicollinearity (Senaviratna & Cooray, 2019). This was checked using **Variance Inflation Factor (VIF),** with VIF values above 10 indicating problematic multicollinearity.

2.8 Ethical Considerations

In line with research ethical requirements, the researcher obtained permit from the NACOSTI and request authority from Kisii University, the researcher also observed the rules of utmost privacy and confidentiality to the respondents as expressly stated in the questionnaire. Before administering any research instrument, respondents were briefed on their significance and expectations during the study.

Great Journs
ISSN: 2328-4870
Vol.1 No.2, October 2024

Journal homepage: www.greatjourns.com

III: RESULTS

3.1 Descriptive Statistics of Credit Facilities

The Women Enterprise Fund provide women with the credit facilities they need to succeed in business. The study investigated the state of credit facilities by women enterprise fund and presented the findings in table 4.5

Table 4.1: Credit Facilities

Statement	N	MIN	MAX	SKEW	KURT	M	SD
It is easy to access women Enterprise Fund loan	374	1	5	-.709	-.516	3.38	1.214
The administrative fee is affordable	374	2	5	-.443	-.828	3.99	.919
Repayment period can be extended when you have a valid reason	374	1	5	-.111	-.173	3.44	1.069
Wide range of securities	374	1	5	-.764	-.747	3.72	1.353
Repayment terms are flexible	374	1	5	-.372	-1.103	3.32	1.456

Source: Research Data, (2024)

Key: N = Number, MIN = Minimum, MAX = Maximum, SKEW = Skewness, KURT = Kurtosis, M = Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

From the findings in table 4.5 With a maximum of 5 and a minimum of 1 respondents were in agreement that it is easy to access women Enterprise Fund loan with a mean of 3.38 and standard deviation of 1.214. However, the responses were normally distributed with Kurtosis= -.516 and Skewness=-.709 which were within the threshold. This implies that majority of the respondents were in agreement that it is easy to access women Enterprise Fund loan with. With a maximum of 5 and a minimum of 2 respondents were in agreement that the administrative fee is affordable with a mean of 3.99 and standard deviation of .919. However, the responses were normally distributed with Kurtosis= -.443 and Skewness=-.828 which were within the threshold. This implies that majority of the respondents were in agreement that the administrative fee is affordable. Majority of the respondents were in agreement that repayment period can be extended when you have a valid reason with a mean of 3.44 while some in disagreement with a standard deviation of 1.069. This implies that there was variability with the agreement ratings amongst the respondents. A minimum disagreement ratings of 1while maximum of agreement rating of 5 with a skewness of -.111 and Kurtosis of -.173. With a maximum of 5 and a minimum of 1 majority of the respondents were in agreement that there is a wide range of securities with a mean of 3.72 and standard deviation of 1.353. However, the responses were

normally distributed with Kurtosis= -.747 and Skewness=-.764 which were within the threshold. This implies that majority of the respondents were in agreement that there is a wide range of securities with a variation in responses. Majority of the respondents were in agreement that repayment terms are flexible with a mean of 3.32 while some in disagreement with a standard deviation of 1.456. This implies that there was variability with the agreement ratings amongst the respondents. A minimum disagreement ratings of 1while maximum of agreement rating of 5 with a skewness of -1.103 and Kurtosis of -.372.

IV SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The general objective of this study was to examine the effects of Women Enterprise Fund programs on the performance of women enterprises in Moiben, Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya. The study examined the effect of credit facilities, capacity building and market linkages on performance of women enterprises in Moiben Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya. From the findings of this study, there is a statistically significant effect of Women Enterprise Fund on the performance of women enterprises in Moiben, Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya as summarized.

V: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The study examined the effect of Women Enterprise Fund programs as credit facilities, capacity building and market linkages on performance of women enterprises in Moiben, Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya; the study concludes that Women Enterprise Fund programs are key in promoting performance of women enterprises in Moiben, Sub-County Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya. This is evidenced by the fact that these variables jointly and independently affect performance of women enterprises as per the study findings. This implies that women enterprise fund should strengthen provision of credit facilities, capacity development and market linkages to potentiate their outcome in terms of performance of women enterprises.

5.2 Recommendation

The Women Enterprise Fund can enhance its support for women-owned enterprises, empower women entrepreneurs, and contribute to their improved performance by implementing these recommendations: The women enterprise fund should simplify the application process for accessing credit facilities. The women enterprise fund should keep administration fees reasonable and affordable for women entrepreneurs, especially for those running small or micro-enterprises. Consider waiving or reducing fees for certain categories of borrowers, such as first-time borrowers or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Develop customized credit products tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of women-owned enterprises.

REFERENCES

Al-shami, S. S. A., Razali, R. M., & Rashid, N. (2018). The effect of Microfinance on women empowerment in welfare and decisions making in Malaysia. Social Indicators Research, *137*(3), 1073-1090.

Amos, D. M., & Lutego, D. (2022). Role of Women Development Fund on Growth of Women Owned Businesses. *International Journal of Engineering, Business and Management*, *6*(2), 105-115.

Anwar, M. (2018), "*Business model innovation and SMEs performance – does competitive. advantage mediate?"*, International Journal of Innovation Management, *22*(7), 1-31.

Apriliyanti, I. D. (2022). A Problem Waits: Is it True that Resource-Based Theory (RBT) is an Empty Tautology?. . *Policy & Governance Review*, *6*(2), 107-122.

Ayatakshi-Endow, S., & Steele, J. (2021). *Striving for balance: Women entrepreneurs in Brazil, their multiple gendered roles and Covid-19.* International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship, *13*(2), 121–141.

Baruah, P. B., & Bezbaruah, M. P. (2020). *Financial access and business performance of urban unorganised sector enterprises*: A study of Assam in Northeast India. The Journal of Entrepreneurship, *29*(1), 119–147.

Batty, G. D., Gale, C. R., Kivimäki, M., Deary, I. J., & Bell, S. (2020). Comparison of risk factor associations in UK Biobank against representative, general population based studies with conventional response rates: prospective cohort study and individual participant meta-analysis. *bmj*,, 368.

Berger, M. (2021). Key issues on women's access to and use of credit in the micro-and small-scale enterprise sector. In Women in micro-and small-scale enterprise development (pp. 189-215). *Routledge*.

Bhuiyan, M. F., & Ivlevs, A. (2019). *Micro-entrepreneurship and subjective well-being: Evidence from rural Bangladesh*. Journal of Business Venturing, *34*(4), 625-645.

Blázquez-García, A., Conde, A., Mori, U., & Lozano, J. A. (2021). A review on outlier/anomaly detection in time series data. . *ACM computing surveys (CSUR), 54*(3), 1-33.

Bonin, S., Singh, W., Suresh, V., Rashed, T., Uppaal, K., Nair, R., & Bhavani, R. R. (2021)*A priority action roadmap for women's economic empowerment (PARWEE) amid COVID-19: A co-creation approach*. International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship, *13*(2), 142–161.